

CLAIMS

1. A seal for a fixed window (3) covering an opening (4), specifically an opening in an automobile, in the form of a profile (13) comprising a longitudinal groove (23) with a sidewise U-shaped transverse section for attachment to the edge (9) of the window (3) and a masking lip (25) covering the space (8) between the edge of the window and the adjacent edge of the opening, characterized in that it comprises on its interior surface a longitudinal rib (29) which has, only in certain discontinuous localized areas, at least one permanent deformation (30) which constitutes a higher area on the rib than along the rest of the rib, thereby forming a projecting portion that serves as a positioning stop (17) in order to maintain optimal spacing between the seal (1) and the edges (7) of the opening.

2. A seal according to the preceding claim characterized in that at least one of these deformations (30) is a flattened area on the rib (29) constituting a thinner and higher area than the rest of the rib, thereby forming a projecting portion that serves as a positioning stop (17).

3. A seal according to either one of the preceding claims characterized in that the longitudinal rib (29) has local deformations (30) disposed in precise locations on the seal (1), selected and imposed for technical reasons and corresponding to the areas on the edges of the opening where manufacturing standards must be respected precisely with little allowance.

4. A seal according to any one of the preceding claims characterized in that it comprises five local deformations (30) serving as positioning stops (17).

5. A seal according to any one of the preceding claims characterized in that it is designed to surround the entire perimeter of a window (3).

6. A seal according to any one of claims 1 through 4 characterized in that it is designed to surround only a portion of the perimeter of the window (3), preferably three of its sides.

7. A seal according to any one of the preceding claims characterized in that it is formed of several profile elements (14, 15) integrated with one another.

8. A seal according to the preceding claim characterized in that the profile elements (14, 15) are integrated with one another by soldering the adjacent extremities (15) previously bisected at 45°.

9. A seal according to any one of the preceding claims characterized in that it is formed of a polymer material that can be extruded and permanently locally deformed.

10. A seal according to the preceding claim characterized in that it is formed of a plastic material formulated with thermoplastic properties.

11. A seal according to the preceding claim characterized in that it is made of charged polypropylene or PVC.

12. A seal according to any one of the preceding claims characterized in that it is designed to be used on a windshield (3), a rear window or a back window on an automobile.

13. A method of manufacturing a seal for a fixed window (3) covering an opening (4), specifically an opening in an automobile, characterized in that it comprises:

a step of extruding a profile (13) comprising a longitudinal groove (23) with a sidewise U-shaped transverse section designed for attachment to the edge (9) of the windows, a masking lip (25) for covering the gap (8) between the edge of the window and the adjacent edge of the opening, and on the interior surface, a continuous longitudinal rib (29);

and a step of locally deforming this rib (29) to form one or more positioning stops (17) for maintaining optimal spacing between the seal (1) and the edges (7) of the window.

14. A method of manufacturing a seal according to the preceding claim characterized in that the deformation step consists of flattening the rib by crushing or pinching it, during which step the rib (29) is locally flattened to reduce its thickness and increase its height in a predetermined area in order to form a projecting portion (30) that can serve as a positioning stop (17).

15. A method of manufacturing a seal according to the preceding claim characterized in that the flattening step is accomplished using a pneumatic press that crushes the rib (29) using the jaws of a gripping tool.

16. A method of manufacturing a seal according to any one of claims 13 through 15 characterized in that the deformation step is a cold process.